



The Groundplane

ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



SBARA-The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S

November 2015-Volume 15, Issue 11

President's Corner - November 2015

Welcome to November and the last newsletter of the year! Our newsletter editor, Bill Artelt, wasn't able to put together the Groundplane Newsletter this month due to requiring outpatient surgery. I wish Bill a speedy recovery and wish to thank him for continuing to be the newsletter editor for SBARA.

Speaking of surgery, it's been three weeks since my rotator cuff surgery. My rehab seems to be progressing well. I'm looking forward to being able to drive again in three weeks. Six weeks of no driving has been a challenge! Although not as big of a deal, handling the mic...left handed...has also been a challenge! ☺

The November meeting will be a busy one! We will have elections, the Zucchini Festival shift raffle, and an excellent presentation. Speaking of elections, Ray Fellers will be stepping down as Secretary and Raffle Coordinator. Thank you, Ray, for taking on BOTH of these positions for so long! If YOU are interested in the Secretary position or handling the raffle, please let a member of the Board of Directors (BOD) know! Neither position requires too much time. The secretary is responsible for taking notes at the SBARA BOD meetings each month. The raffle coordinator has to visit HRO to pick up items for the raffle. You can be creative and try some new items or take advantage of a list of items that have been used in the past. **SBARA NEEDS YOUR HELP!** Please consider supporting your club by filling one of these positions. The more people who participate, the less of a burden it is for the collective group. And hey...the more the merrier! We do have fun! Thanks also to the other officers, Deborah Patten, VP, and Don Amyx, Treasurer, and the various appointees for their continued service.

I had a lot of fun, a few weeks ago, on Sunday, October 25th, as I found myself multitasking. While doing some work and cleaning off the top of my desk at home, I realized that it was the weekend for the CQ WW contest. It is the largest Amateur Radio competition in the world. Over 30,000 participants take to the airwaves on the last weekend of October (SSB) and November (CW) with the goal of making as many contacts with as

many different DXCC entities and CQ Zones as possible. [NOTE: The secret code for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "CQ WW." Write this word down on a piece of paper and hand it to Ray at the raffle table for a free ticket. Limit one ticket per person.] My first contact was Bonaire...an island municipality of the Netherlands which lies off Venezuela's coast in the southern Caribbean. 10 and 15 meters were my friend. They were hopping! I only had one contact on 20 meters, to Canada. The rest of my contact list was pretty exciting.

Alaska	Chile	Madeira Island
Australia	Columbia	Mexico
Barbados	Curacao	Morocco
Brazil	Germany	Switzerland
Canada	Hawaii	US Virgin Islands
Canary Islands	Japan	Venezuela

This is a GREAT contest...even if you aren't into contesting...to make contacts in other countries. My contacts are also a testament that you don't need an amplifier or huge antenna to make DX contacts, as I am only running 100 watts and a Cushcraft R8 vertical! For those of you into CW, make sure you put November 28-29, on your calendar. The contest starts at 0000 UTC Saturday and ends at 2359 UTC Sunday.

I did learn an important lesson while I was starting to make my contacts during the contest. Fortunately, before I made too many contacts, I noticed an issue. My logging software was NOT logging the correct band and frequency for the contact. I had to reconfigure the rig interface settings in the logging software. It is a similar lesson that I learned with my Yaesu FT-8800 in the Miata. LOOK to see which side of the radio you are on BEFORE transmitting!!! ☺

As we wind down for the year, I'd like to thank the SBARA board of directors, other volunteers, and of all of our members, for your continued support! I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year for 2016!

73!
Steve KG6HJU

What is the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015?

S. 1685 and its US House twin, H.R. 1301, call on the FCC to extend the limited federal preemption of PRB-1 to cover private land-use restrictions such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs). If the legislation becomes law, radio amateurs living in antenna-restricted communities would have the opportunity to negotiate with homeowners associations to install an antenna that reasonably accommodates Amateur Radio communication. US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced H.R. 1301 on March 4 with 12 original cosponsors. The House measure now boasts 113 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle.

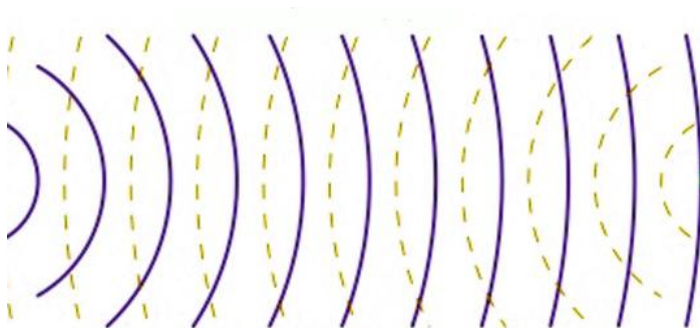


“All members are encouraged to go ahead and write their own letters to be sent via ARRL Headquarters,” ARRL President Craigie said. “They don’t have to wait for a hamfest or convention. Get the letters done now, before the holidays take over everyone’s time and attention. Members’ letters are absolutely *essential* to the success of this legislation. Everything you can do to drum up letters from your local area is an important part of the overall advocacy program. As I’ve said before, this is a full-team effort, and every member’s action makes a difference.”

I’ve written a letter to my congressmen and I encourage each of you to write a letter addressed to your representative and mail it to the ARRL for bulk delivery to Washington. It is easy. Form letters are available on the ARRL webpage [here](#). 73, de WT6K

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Echo Heard on 80 Meters During November Sweepstakes



As I was reading the Northern California Contest Club reflector I came across an interesting thread describing a phenomenon occurring on 80 Meters the night of November 7th. It seems many operators participating in the ARRL Sweepstakes contest experienced hearing signals from stations twice, but one delayed by a fraction of a second. Gordon KM6I wrote, “At first I thought there was something awry with my rig, as I was hearing echos of my CW signal in between the QSK. I’m also hearing it on my local ham neighbors in Santa Clara

Valley. Round trip time is about 1/4 second, only on 80 meters. Started around 10:30pm local time.” Rick K6RK added, “Also hearing the echo here. Sounds like 1/7 second, IOW, long path around the whole earth.” What an interesting hobby indeed. 73, de WT6K

It Is That Time of Year Again

Ask any of the current SBARA board members and they will tell you that 2015 has gone by very fast. In November we will have elections for the 2016 Board elected positions, i.e., President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Steve Wilson (KG6HJU) has put his name in the "hat" again as a candidate for president in 2016, as well as Deborah Patten (AG6HJ) for Vice President. Don Amyx (N6DA), our current Treasurer, would like to pass the baton to someone new. Also...Ray Fellers will not be able to continue as Secretary.



Traditionally, the board presents a slate of nominees and at the November meeting, nominations are accepted from the floor. If you are asked to fill a position by the Board Nominating Committee, please consider saying "yes."

The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday (on 144.230 MHz) and Sunday (on 7.057 MHz \pm 3 KHz) night at 7:30 pm. You need an "all-mode" transceiver in order to participate in this net.

The net now has its own email address. Please contact us here:

"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

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Bernhard AE6YN

Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net takes place every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net.

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Bernhard AE6YN

**SBARA Membership meeting this Friday, November 13th at 7:30 p.m.
Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Court (off of Warm Springs Blvd), Fremont
Join us at 6:00 p.m. for the pre-meeting dinner at
Ho Chow Restaurant, 47966 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont. (510) 657-0683**